Registered No. M-4345

MADRAS WAR REVIEW

Vol. II Friday, December 5, 1941 Issue No. 49

CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
Notes of the Week	1	" A Clash of Fleets and Flotillas " ..	10
The Crisis in the Far East	5	The Axis Speaks—and is Answered ..	11
The Japanese Navy	7	Diary of the War	13

NOTES OF THE WEEK

THE WEEK

Is the tide turning in favour of Russia? The Russians are now on the offensive near Leningrad, have driven the German army out of Rostov westwards and are mercilessly pounding the remnants. They have begun their counter-attacks in the Donetz basin. The two danger-spots are Moscow and Sebastopol where, however, not much progress has been made by the Germans.

M. Stalin has expressed his gratitude to Great Britain for sending planes and tanks, the quality of which he has greatly appreciated. " We would like," he said, " as many Hurricanes and tanks as you can send and could you limit the number of types sent to us? It would make everything much easier."

In Libya, the situation is much confused after the first successes of the British Imperial Army. The Germans have taken Sidi Rezegh and Bir-El-Hamid, and would appear to have further joined up their main forces, but a note of optimism prevails and, it is said, this penetration is only temporary.

Gondar, the last remaining stronghold of Italy in Abyssinia, has fallen. Twenty-three thousand five hundred prisoners have been taken, 11,500 Italians and 12,000 African troops. The attacking forces numbered less than half the enemy's and suffered comparatively small casualties. The amount of war material which has fallen into British hands is reported to be very considerable.

The attitude of Finland in regard to Russia is being strongly criticised in the United States. The State Department says that Finland's latest action has " confirmed our apprehensions that she is fully co-operating with Hitler's forces." In Washington it is believed that a formal declaration of war by Great Britain on Finland will shortly be made. This is confirmed by the Finnish Premier who informed Parliament on November 30, that Britain was now threatening Finland with war! Marshal Mannerheim, in a statement, said that while Finland did not want an imperialist war, she was determined to fight for the security of her eastern frontiers. Meanwhile, it may be noted that Finland is suffering reverses in the northern sector, the Russians counter-attacking them.

Marshal Petain has had important talks with Field-Marshal Goering. According to an official statement, it would appear that Marshal Petain desired Franco-German collaboration and that Field Marshal Goering would permit the French to look into the future with increased confidence. De Brinon, Vichy's Ambassador in Paris, in a statement said: " The meeting was not a negotiation but a very frank general conversation between the two men who respect each other as soldiers. It is nevertheless certain that something important may come out of it." It is not known precisely what points were discussed, but it is feared that Vichy might have consented to give Germany naval and air bases in North Africa.

American aid to China under the Lease and Lend Act has reached enormous proportions. Approximately fourteen thousand United States made lorries will soon be in operation along the Burma Road. A makeshift aeroplane factory was built in sections in the United States and shipped to an undisclosed site in Chungking area. The factory is equipped to make any part for any United States type warplane from medium bomber to pursuit and observation craft. Some four thousand trucks are already plying along the Burma Road from

Lashio to Kunming. Lease and Lend funds that will provide for a vast increase in the production of tanks and guns for Britain and Russia are included in an additional 8,243,839,000 dollar defence appropriation approved by the House Appropriations Committee on Wednesday. This will bring the total cash and contract authorizations provided for defence since July 1, 1940, to 67,990,254,000 dollars.

The benefits of the Lease and Lend Act have been extended to Turkey. This would imply that United States of America is convinced that Turkey will resist German aggression.

MAN AND WOMAN POWER IN GREAT BRITAIN

Mr. Churchill announced in the House of Commons on Tuesday last, drastic proposals for calling up more men and women to serve in the army, the defence forces and war industries. They are: the raising of the calling-up age for military service for men from 41 to 50; lowering of the calling-up age to 18½; registration of boys and girls between the ages of 16 and 18; and compulsory calling-up of single women betwen the ages of 20 and 30 with powers to require women to serve in the uniformed auxiliary forces or the several defence forces.

In explaining his scheme, Mr. Churchill made the following points:—

(1) Britain must have good supplies of tanks, which must be staffed fully, and must have a perfectly mobile armed service for home defence and foreign expeditions.

(2) Munitions production in the first year was nothing at all; second year, very little; third year, quite a lot; and fourth year, all we want. We are at the beginning of the third year.

(3) "In future our men would fight on equal terms and a little later, on superior terms. It is to this end that we have to make arrangements in good time. A heavy burden will fall on us in 1942. We must not be found unequal to it. We shall not be found unequal to it."

(4) "I promised eighteen months ago, blood, tears, toil and sweat. There has not been, thank God, so much blood as was expected. There has not been so much of tears, but there has been another instalment of toil which I am sure will be accepted cheerfully by all parties of the nation."

(5) The raising of the calling-up age to 50 would bring in roughly 2¼ millions. The lowering of the age to 18½ would bring an additional 70,000 to the Home Force.

(6) "We have nearly one million seven hundred thousand men, a lot of them well-armed and spread over the country. We have several million more men who will fight in the event of an invasion."

(7) All women above eighteen are already directed by the Ministry of Labour into industry. The Government were asking power to require women to serve in uniformed auxiliary forces or civil defence. The number in the 20 to 30 age groups concerned would be 1,620,000.

(8) "Two vultures are hanging over us and would hang over us until the end of the war. The first is invasion and the second the air-raider. At some time or other, Hitler would have to recognize his defeat by the Russian Army and endeavour to cover his disaster in the west by wreaking his full fury on us."

GERMANY'S "NEW ORDER"

Has the Nazi project for a great gathering in Vienna or Moscow to announce the New Order dwindled into nothing better than the Anti-Comintern meeting in Berlin? It may or may not be so, but the point to note is that Herr von Ribbentrop has revealed to the world what the New Order would consist of.

He said at the meeting of Quislings, referring to the occupied countries rising in revolt; "The tank and the dive-bomber preclude the possibility of a revolt in the disarmed territory." This boastful statement is self-explanatory. There have been two similar statements. On November 7, the German radio said: "The execution of hostages must be considered to have been in the best interests of humanity." On November 18, Dr. Seyss-Inquart told the Dutch "Independence is incompatible with the comradeship for which the Germans strive."

On the signing of the Anti-Comintern Pact various countries have made their remarks which need no comment. The Copenhagen radio said "The Government found it opportune to accept the invitation." The Spanish radio stated: "The Anti-Comintern Pact will have to be revived as the adequate reply to the friendly relations between Britain and the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics." The Tokyo Press said: "Japan's adherence to the Pact signifies no antagonism against any State or people." The Helsinki radio pointed out: "The Pact does not alter our relations with other States." The failure of Sweden to send a delegate has angered the Germans. The Germans have taken a stronger line in unproteced Denmark for, when they discovered that the majority in the Danish Cabinet were opposed to the signing of the Anti-Comintern Pact, they told the Danish Premier that if the Pact was not signed the Nazis would take over the full administration of the country. When, however, the Danes heard of the signing of the Pact, there were immediate popular outbursts and riots. There was also a report that the King of Denmark opposed the signature and threatened to abdicate.

THREATENED REPRISAL FOR LOSS OF ROSTOV

The German army which has been hounded out of Rostov has, as a reprisal, announced that the *Luftwaffe* would be directed to deal with Rostov as it had dealt with Warsaw, Rotterdam and Belgrade. Marshal Timoshenko has defeated the German army because of his superior strategy and because larger forces are at his disposal. Instead of gracefully acknowledging defeat, Germany wants to take revenge on innocent people in Rostov —a disgraceful way of waging the war.

Here is an account of what took place in the three cities mentioned above.

Warsaw.—Warsaw was raided repeatedly and many tons of bombs were dropped over the city. The most foul murders committed from the air, in the words of Mr. Biddle, the United States Ambassador at that time in Poland, were those bombings made on a clearly marked hospital train in Warsaw station, on a detachment of twelve girl guides in their hut which completely wiped them all, on a sanatorium involving the death of children, and on a refugee train on the way from Kutno. The casualties among the civilians, especially among women and children, between September 1 and September 3, 1939 amounted to over 1,500 killed and many thousands wounded and a total of 20,000 civilian deaths was estimated up to September 17.

Rotterdam.—War broke on Holland shortly before dawn on Friday, May 10, 1940, and by the evening of the following Tuesday, the avalanche of fire and steel of the Nazis swept over the Dutch land. There was heavy fighting in some of the principal streets of Rotterdam and by the evening of Saturday, May 11, the whole of the old town was ablaze. In the course of the afternoon of Tuesday, two squadrons of German bombers flew over the city in close formation, dropping delayed action bombs which "ploughed a veritable furrow of destruction." Again and again the planes repeated the operation, until they had completed which, was rightly described as "this monstrous work of destruction, horrifying as a nightmare." At least 10,000 people were killed and a third of the city destroyed in the course of the German bombardment.

Belgrade.—Yugoslavia's first experience of Nazi savagery was when at 3-30 on Sunday morning, the 6th April 1941, the first of many waves of German bombers appeared over Belgrade's roofs. The capital had been declared an open city by the Yugoslav authorities, but the claim was brushed aside and soon the German radio was gloating over the destruction caused by the Nazi planes. "Our target was the military and moral nerve centre of Yugoslavia." In a short time the Stukas had turned the city into a mass of ruins, and the streets were littered with the dead bodies of women and children and old men.

SEVERE LOSSES TO AXIS SHIPPING

Important and impressive successes for the Allies in regard to the sinking of Axis ships tell a tale of remarkable vigil and strategy on the part of the Allied air forces and the navy.

The following facts may be of interest :—

(1) Since the beginning of November, twenty-four enemy ships have been sunk, four probably sunk and thirteen hit by the Royal Navy and the Fleet Air Arm in the Mediterranean.

(2) Eight enemy ships have been sunk and five seriously damaged by British submarines in Arctic waters. They were transporting reinforcements of men and supplies to German armies on the Murmansk front. The British submarines concerned were H.M.S. "*Tigris*" and H.M.S. "*Trident.*"

(3) In 120 days British submarines, surface warships and naval aircraft have made 139 successful attacks on enemy shipping.

(4) A German merchant-raider in South Atlantic was sunk on November 22. H.M.S. "*Devonshire*" and her aircraft sank the raider.

(5) One Italian supply ship, one heavy destroyer and one tanker were sent to the bottom of the sea by British Navy in the Mediterranean. A Greek ship also sunk a supply ship on November 10.

It is a matter for profound regret, however, that the Australian cruiser "*Sydney*" has been sunk by enemy action with 42 officers and 603 men, after herself sinking the heavily armed merchant-raider "*Steirmark.*"

WAR IN LIBYA

The operations in Libya continue to be in a fluid state. They have, as Mr. Churchill warned us to expect at the start of the British campaign, approximated more to naval than to land warfare. Fast-moving tanks with the inevitable supply lorries roam over the desert as ships over the waters, challenging one another at widely separated tactical points. In this type of warfare, which has been going on for more than two weeks, territories count less than the destruction of the enemy's armoured forces. It is only when this is accomplished fully that the infantry can come into its own and consolidate the positions already gained. We have seen how Sidi Rezegh and Bir el Hamid have changed hands frequently; the Germans are now in possession but they will not long remain so! And one great thing the advancing British forces have achieved. They have raised the siege of Tobruk, with whose garrison they have formed a united front. And among the British "bag" commanded the 21st German Panzer Division. of prisoners is General von Ravenstein, who

There is no need to be unduly worried at the apparent hold-up of the British advance. It is not the Italians but the Germans they are fighting this time. General Bastico may be the titular commander of the Axis forces but it is General von Rommel, the experienced and clever German, who is really leading them. He may be expected to do his best to break out of the steadily closing British ring or to fight to his last tank. Earlier in the campaign, he tried to create a diversion by sending a flying column towards the Egyptian frontier. But both the British Commander-in-Chief in the Middle East, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, and the Commander on the field, Major-General Sir Alan Cunningham, had expected some such move and were able to beat him off after inflicting heavy punishment on the Germans. Indeed, the destruction of enemy tanks remains the chief aim of the British Command and it is being achieved slowly but steadily.

The encircled German troops can hope for no reinforcements on such a scale as to threaten the British Imperial Forces. In this connexion, we have a right to rejoice at the daring march of the British column that, starting from the south of the Egypt-Libya frontier, reached the Gulf of Sidra between Jedabaya and Benghazi, and returned to prepared positions after taking a heavy toll of Axis supply columns. The Royal Air Force continues to range the skies in freedom, lending close support to the land forces and shooting down German planes in great numbers. In one battle alone, the British airmen brought down 15 German planes. And the British Navy stands guard in the Mediterranean. In one action, British ships have sunk one Italian supply ship, one heavy Italian destroyer and one tanker carrying 10,000 tons of petrol for von Rommel's forces. The Germans may put up a stiff fight but military observers in Cairo, who know what is happening, confidently expect a striking British victory.

The capture of Gondar, the last Italian stronghold in Abyssinia with 11,500 Italian and 12,000 colonial prisoners, means that the rear of the British forces in Libya has been entirely purged of all enemy elements.

RUSSIAN SUCCESSES

The best news from the war fronts this week has been the re-capture of Rostov-on-Don by the Russian Army. Marshal Timoshenko, Soviet Commander-in-Chief in the south, in the course of his masterly operations, did not attack Rostov directly but launched a weighty counter-offensive in the Donetz Basin. Advancing nearly 70 miles he threatened the flank of General von Kleist's Panzer and other forces in occupation of Rostov, forcing the Germans to evacuate this important oil-rail centre. The retreat has turned very nearly into a rout and the Germans, four of whose divisions have been smashed and much of whose equipment has been left behind in the hands of the Russians, have had no time to re-form even at Taganrog. They are said to be fleeing towards Mariopol with the Russians in pursuit. The German High Command is hard put to it to invent excuses for their first big reverse on land and forsooth! blame the activities of the civil population of Rostov for their precipitate retreat. The re-capture of Rostov, on which M. Stalin has deservedly congratulated the Russian Commander, has had the effect not only of checking the German drive into the Caucasus but of throwing the German military leaders into confusion. They must stop their rout in the south lest it tells on the morale of their troops in the centre.

In the central sector, indeed, the Germans are going all out to take Moscow but their progress has been so slow and achieved at such cost that it has been well said that they gain little more ground each day than to bury their dead! They claim the capture of Volokolamsk but apparently they have not been able to advance any further in that sub-sector. Both at Kalinin to the north, and at Tula to the south, of Moscow their pincer movements have been foiled and Soviet counter-attacks have been so successful as to threaten their flanks. The situation in the Moscow region is certainly grim but the Germans are as far as ever from taking that city.

In the north, Leningrad holds out against all German wiles. The Russians admit the evacuation of Tikhvin, a railway town in this sector, but further north they have just thrown back the Finns from four strategic positions in Karelia. Finland is apparently to fight on at the instigation of her German masters but she will soon repent her folly in alienating both America and Britain.

It is heartening to hear that British airmen have performed prodigies of valour in Russia; four of them have been awarded the Order of Lenin, the highest Soviet decoration. The British Navy guards the Arctic supply route to Russia and two British submarines, the *Tigris* and the *Trident*, have this week sunk eight enemy supply ships and seriously damaged five others in Arctic waters. In the course of a message to Lord Beaverbrook, M. Stalin expresses his profound appreciation of British help and has called for more Hurricanes and tanks. We need have no doubt that British workers will see that he gets them.

THE CRISIS IN THE FAR EAST

THE A. B. C. D. POWERS ALERT

The week has been full of talks, rumours and threats. The Special Envoy from Japan, Mr. Kurusu, and the Japanese Ambassador in Washington, Admiral Nomura, have met Mr. Cordell Hull and President Roosevelt on a number of occasions. The United States Government have handed a note regarding their final decision. The Japanese Cabinet has instructed its representatives to carry on the talks till the end—God knows for what purpose. Has this instruction been given in order to gain time for preparations against Japan's next victim? Japan's reply to the United States is now ready and is being handed over. That the situation is serious is recognized by everybody. Lord Halifax, the British Ambassador, has returned to Washington. President Roosevelt, who was expected to spend a few days in Warm Springs, has given up his special tour and has returned to the capital. He is conferring with his administrative and defence chiefs and also congressional leaders, while at the same time the Japanese representatives hope to have further talks with the Secretary of State and also perhaps with the President. In some quarters the fact that Japan has stopped sending further reinforcements to Indo-China is taken to mean that perhaps Japan does not contemplate a definite move in the near future. But she has already amassed troops on the western frontier of Indo-China, occupied the chief ports in that country and gathered a pretty strong air force. President Roosevelt has demanded an explanation as to why, in the midst of the negotiations, Japan has sent land and air forces to Indo-China in excess of what had been stipulated with the Vichy authorities. While, according to Thailand's Prime Minister, the Democracies have promised to observe her integrity and independence, Japan has told her that her troop movements in Indo-China did not signify any aggressive intentions on her part. But it should be remembered that Japan is a member of the Axis and a prominent feature of totalitarian tactics is to lull the victim to inactivity by fair promises and then embark upon a *blitz*.

Recent utterances of Japanese statesmen and the writings in the Japanese press have not been such as to justify hopes of an amicable settlement between America and Japan. The Premier has recently said that Anglo-American interference in the Far East should be purged. It is also stated that America does not understand the conditions in the Far East and that Japan is determined to follow her policy of bringing about a co-prosperity sphere, at the same time assuring the world that she would remain a member of the Axis and fulfil such obligations as lie on her shoulders on that account. A Japanese official has said that the Netherlands East Indies would soon be finished if war broke out.

THE ONLY REAL HOPE OF PEACE

The fact is that, as Mr. A. V. Alexander, the First Lord of Admiralty, pointed out the other day, Japan is trembling on the brink of a tragic blunder. The Army, and to a certain extent the Navy, are out for establishing, what they call, the Japanese supremacy in the Far East at any cost. These elements hold the key positions in Japan to-day and egged on by the Japanese press, they might possibly precipitate a crisis. On the other hand, there are old and wise statesmen who would hasten slowly, especially in view of the present extraordinarily weak Japanese position in regard to her finances brought about not only by the China affair, but by the freezing of Japanese assets by the democratic countries and the Netherlands East Indies. Her foreign trade upon which her life depends has now been reduced to a dangerously low level. The blockade has further cut off 75 per cent of her normal imports. A war in the Pacific, especially against the United States and Great Britain, would involve her in commitments which might possibly make it exceedingly difficult for her to recover. The following observations in *Oriental Affairs* (of Shanghai) upon this aspect of the problem are pertinent :

" Only one authority could possibly override the Army's views, and that is the Emperor. Military and political extremists would probably have no hesitation in repeating the ' blood bath ' of February 26, 1936, if the civilian and naval elements in the Government endorsed a complete reversal of national policy. But the person and the authority of the Emperor are sacrosanct. Not even the fire-eating militarists and the Black Dragon organization would dare to lift a hand against them.

" It may be, then, that the recent administrative changes in Japan, which are interpreted as placing the Army under the direct command of the Emperor have greater significance than is generally realized. His Majesty is understood to have made adhesion to the Axis conditional upon most positive assurances from his Ministers that under no circumstances would this move involve his country in war with the United States. The Army must have concurred in these assurances at the time, though its spokesmen have recently been recklessly advocating a showdown with America. Unless the Imperial authority is exerted there can hardly be any doubt that the Army, sooner or later, will embroil the nation in a conflict with the United States. Is that why the Emperor has taken direct command of Imperial Headquarters, and appointed a Chief of Staff directly responsible to the

Throne? One would like to think so. For it seems to offer the only real hope of the maintenance of peace in the Pacific."

There are inherent difficulties in the situation and the gap between the American and Japanese demands is very wide. The central point of difference is China, and unless Japan takes her hands off China and puts a stop to aggression, a satisfactory agreement cannot be arrived at.

The United States of America, Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand, China and the Netherlands East Indies are, however, prepared for all contingencies. They constitute a very strong combination and Japan might well ponder deeply before she ventures on agression again. There are many people in these countries who regret that they were not strong enough to prevent Japanese penetration into Indo-China. But any further forward move will, of course, be resisted. The following points may be noted :—

(*a*) In Thailand steps have been taken to pass necessary measures for dealing with the situation.

(*b*) The Burma Road is being strongly fortified by the erection of aerodromes at strategic points and it is even stated that the United States aeroplanes may patrol the area against hostile attacks by Japan.

(*c*) Burma is well prepared and her land and air defences have been greatly strengthened and reinforcements have arrived.

(*d*) A state of emergency has been declared in Singapore and troops have been asked to stand by in Singapore and in Hongkong. Troops in Malaya have been asked to keep ready and, as has been repeatedly remarked, Malaya is now very strongly reinforced, the latest troops to arrive in Singapore being from British India. A part of the British Fleet, including *The Prince of Wales*, has arrived in Singapore.

(*e*) All leave in the Philippines has been cancelled. The Corregador—island guarding the Manila Bay—is standing as a fortress against any attack. Conferences are daily taking place in the Philippines, attended by officers of the Army, Air and Naval forces of those islands and of the United States. Part of the United States Navy is now at Manila.

(*f*) A telegram from Washington states that the United States Government are co-operating with the British and Free French in the creation of a string of island military bases stretching 5,000 miles across the Pacific between Hawaii and Australia.

(*g*) Australia and New Zealand realize the gravity of the situation.

MR. SCHMIDT GOES TO ANKARA

The Nazis abhor the freedom of the Turkish Press. They have sent Dr. Paul Schmidt, Wilhelmstrasse Press Chief, to Ankara to see what can be done about it. He may try a favourite Nazi method—bribery. But he will find it difficult, because the Turkish Cabinet has adopted the following suggestion made by the Turkish Press Congress Association :—

"Any Turkish publisher or editor found guilty of accepting subsidies from any foreign government is to be charged with High Treason according to the penal code, while the guilty newspaper is to suffer permanent suppression."

Throughout the most difficult period in the first quarter-century of the Turkish Republic her Pressmen, as much as her Politicians, have remained as firm as granite in defence of their integrity. The friendship pact which the Turkish Government concluded with Germany has introduced not the slightest trace of pro-Axis bias into Turkish editorial comment.

In maintaining absolute impartiality, Turkish newspapermen have not hesitated to criticise their ally Britain when such criticism seemed to them justified. They have been sceptical about Russian and German communiqués alike, weighing the evidence for both sides carefully and drawing an independent conclusion.

The praise they have offered to the Soviet people was not bought with Russian roubles as the Nazis would like to buy fair words with German marks. Nor did British pounds buy this summing up by Huseyin Cahid Yalcin in *Yeni Sabah* on October 8, 1941 :—

"After two years of war Britain is facing victorious Germany erect, energetically, with her strength unimpaired and steadily increasing. . . Germany, with her excited demonstrations of military grandeur and might, reigns in a world of pompous appearances. But Britain works and grows stronger, undisturbed and in security, and becomes truly invincible."

THE JAPANESE NAVY

AN UNKNOWN QUANTITY

Between 1871 and 1893 Japan spent some £24,000,000 on her new naval forces, which first came into action with the Chinese, in the war of 1894–95. The larger ships of both Navies were of foreign—chiefly British—construction. There was little to choose between them in numbers and tonnage, but the morale and efficiency of the Chinese fleet had been undermined by corruption, and in all naval engagements the Japanese were uniformly victorious. Most of China's ironclads were destroyed or captured. By the time the Russo-Japanese War broke out in 1904 Japan had a compact but formidable fleet, some of the capital units of which were as large and as heavily armed and armoured as those of any other power. She had not, however, by any means a safe margin of superiority over the Russians in the Pacific, and the nature of the naval operations in which she had to engage, resulted in the loss of or damage to several valuable ships, by mines. These included the battleship *Hatsuse*, which was sunk, and the *Itsukushima*, and *Fuji*, which were badly damaged. But in the Straits of Tsushima, on May 28, 1905, Admiral Togo won one of the world's most decisive naval victories over the Russian Fleet that had been sent out from the Baltic in an attempt to relieve Port Arthur. All but two of the larger Russian warships were sunk, and this crushing blow was achieved with the loss of only three Japanese torpedo-boats.

Japan came into the Great War of 1914–18 as an Ally of Great Britain, but her main Fleet was never in action during this conflict. One of her latest Battle Cruisers, the *Kongo*, participated in the hunt for Admiral von Spee's Squadron, and some destroyers were sent to European waters to assist in convoy and anti-submarine duties. Incidentally, the *Kongo*, like so many other Japanese capital ships of this period, was constructed in a British shipyard. For until quite recently the Japanese exhibited remarkably little initiative in the improvement of engineering designs. Their usual policy was to order a recent model from abroad, and then imitate it in their own shipyards. It is indeed only since the Great War that Japan has undertaken all of her own naval construction.

While Japan was an Ally of Great Britain she was allowed unusual facilities for acquainting herself with details of British Naval designs and equipment. During the Great War several of the Grand Fleet carried Japanese Naval observers. It is not to be supposed that her naval officers and designers were afforded the same privileges after the termination of the alliance, especially when it appeared uncertain whether the Japanese Fleet in any future conflict would fight on our side or against us. Post-Great War naval construction has been carried out almost entirely in Japanese dockyards, and the Japanese Navy has developed types of warships of its own, some of which have been reported to have been anything but satisfactory. Naval science has not remained stationary during the past twenty years, but there is no record of any Japanese mechanical invention of any consequence during that, or indeed any other period—the automatic loom alone expected. In the shipbuilding, automobile, aircraft and mechanized military equipment industries, Japan has imitated Western design and there is no reason to suppose that any modifications that have been made can be considered improvements on the original types. No other important Naval Power has such a poor record of originality and invention. In guns and torpedoes, in turbines and radio equipment, in aircraft and in submarine design, in fact in every detail of naval equipment, the Japanese have demonstrated that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. Whether the imitation is as good as the original has yet to be demonstrated.

Although H.M.S. *Dreadnought*, which was to revolutionize battleship design, had been completed in 1906, and Great Britain had 19 battleships and ten battle-cruisers of the multiple big-gun type in commission at the beginning of the Great War, Japan's *Dreadnought* type of warships in 1914 numbered only two battleships and four battle-cruisers, of which the first, the *Kongo*, was constructed at Barrow. Of her total of 14 battleships, old and new, no fewer than three had been constructed abroad, as also had many of her coast-defence ships, cruisers, destroyers, and submarines.

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE AND AFTER

It has always been represented as a grievance that at the Disarmament Conference in Washington, Japan was prevailed upon to accept a ratio of three capital ships to Britain's and America's five apiece. The fact, however, is that unless Japan assumed that she could compete in naval construction with the Anglo-Saxon Powers, this was a great concession upwards on the part of the latter. When the Washington Treaty of February 6, 1932 was signed, the respective strength in completed capital ships of the *Dreadnought* type of Great Britain, America and Japan was 39, 27 and 12, respectively. Under the "scrapping" proviso, Great Britain had to dispose of 20 battleships forthwith, and stop construction of four others; America had to scrap 28; Japan had to scrap 11 and stop construction on 6. (These figures included battleships of pre-*Dreadnought* as well as *Dreadnought* types.) It will be seen, therefore, that the 5–5–3 ratio

increased the strength of the Japanese Navy relatively to that of the British and American Navies. If the Washington Treaties had provided for a holiday in naval construction, Japan would have been outnumbered by over three to one by Great Britain, and over two to one by America, in modern battleships. It would have taken years of construction and an expenditure of hundreds of millions of pounds for Japan to attain parity even if the Anglo-Saxon Powers had suspended further building.

Japan presumably adhered to her undertakings in regard to scrapping and replacement of Capital ships until she denounced the Washington Treaty. Since then much secrecy has been observed regarding her new construction, especially in the matter of Capital ships. She has refused to exchange information with other Naval Powers. In 1938, so far as is known, the strength of the Three Powers in battleships and battle-cruisers, heavy cruisers and light cruisers, aircraft carriers, destroyers and submarines was as follows :—

	Great Britain.	U.S.A.	Japan.
Battleships and Battle Cruisers	15	15	9
Heavy Cruisers	15	17	12
Light Cruisers	40	10	21
Aircraft Carriers.. ..	8	5	6
Destroyers	155	206	105
Submarines	54	85	59

Great Britain has probably completed five to seven new Battleships since the outbreak of war; America has at least another ten completed or under construction; Japan is reported to have three or four building, of considerably larger tonnage than was permitted under the Washington Treaty, which fixed the limit at 35,000 tons.

The largest Japanese battleships afloat prior to the outbreak of the present war were the *Nagato* and *Mutsu*, of 32,870 tons, with a main armament of 8 16-inch guns and a speed of 23 knots. The latest British battleships carry a main armament of improved 14-inch guns and are reported to have a speed of about 30 knots.

The British Navy is generally known as "the Silent Service." Of late no such description would have applied to the Japanese. Naval Spokesmen both at home and in Shanghai have vied with their Military colleagues in handing out information to the Press, and not infrequently, "warning" or "threatening" the Governments of other Powers. A typical example was Commander Hideo Hiraide's "warning" at a press conference on August 13 that "now is not the time to fuss whether Japan should enter the war. The present time is merely the calm before the storm. Therefore the people must be prepared. The Japanese were a peace-loving people but there was a limit to their patience, and they would explode when this stage would be reached."

COCKSURE ADMIRALS.

Perhaps the most revealing example of Japanese naval mentality, however, is to be found in the report of a Round Table Conference organized by the Editor of the *Hinode* Magazine, and attended by half a dozen Admirals on the Reserve or Retired List. A full report of the discussion appeared in the *Japan News Week*.

The Admirals waxed somewhat sarcastic over the alleged "facilities for pleasures" provided on British and American—especially American—warships, such as ice-water and soda-water plants, "splendid barber shops, coffee stands, etc." One Admiral stated "British Naval designers say that war does not occur very often, whereas warships must always be manned with sailors, and therefore it is not a wise policy to sacrifice facilities of pleasure for the sake of fighting power, which is used only at rare intervals." It would be interesting to know the names of these (mythical) designers.

As regards submarines, it is interesting to learn that the Japanese craft "in respect to tonnage and speed. . . are much superior to those of the German Navy." The submarines of the United States Navy, we are told "have a special appliance to save the lives of the crew in case of disaster. Their progress in life-saving appliances, however, is made at a considerable sacrifice of fighting power. They must have an advanced system of life-saving, *or else they cannot find a sufficient number of men to enlist*." (The italics are ours.) To this another Admiral added "The Americans are suitable for attractive duties such as air service, for instance, but they dislike hard duties under water which attract no attention from anyone else. In this connection Japanese submarine crews are greatly superior to those of the United States Navy."

When the discussion turned upon torpedo attacks from aircraft, one of the Admirals ventured the opinion that "the German Air Force has not been properly trained in the use of aerial torpedoes, or else it would have been able to deal a deadly blow to the British Squadrons in the Mediterranean Sea." He went on to state that "In aerial torpedo warfare the British and United States Navies lead many other nations. Japan has learned the tactics of torpedo warfare from the British Air Force. At present, however, we are far ahead of the British Air Force in this special line of warfare." (Shades of Taranto!)

MODERN STRATEGY.

In spite of the self-assurance of the Japanese Admirals, the relative efficiency of the Japanese Navy compared to that of the British and American Fleets remains an unknown quantity. That officers and men undergo a most rigorous training, and that their morale and devotion leave nothing to be desired, may be granted.

But naval warfare of to-day is a matter of machines as well as of men. Every modern warship from the submarine to the super-battleship is a veritable maze of intricate machinery. The improvements that have been made in equipment and design since Jutland days are probably as radical as those between the beginning of the Century and the Great War. Japan may have evolved some specialities in design or equipment of her own, but her record in other fields of engineering does not suggest that she has kept pace with Western invention. Certainly she has not done so in the design or manufacture or aircraft or automobiles. Mechanical designs which she has imitated have often been out-dated before she could bring them into production. American and British naval experts do not belittle or under-estimate the efficiency of her Navy; but neither do they feel any apprehension as to the outcome of an engagement between anything like equal numbers of their own and Japanese warships. Actually, if a war between Japan and the Anglo-Saxon Powers broke out in the near future it is very improbable that there would be a Fleet engagement in the earlier phases. The main naval bases of the combatants are so remote from each other, and the effective operational range of Capital ships is still so restricted, that the Admirals on both sides would probably consider it suicidal to seek to force actions in enemy waters. If, as seems likely, a British Fleet was sent out to Singapore, and joined there by a portion of the American Fleet, Japan would hardly dare to risk a concentration in the direction of that stronghold while the main American Fleet remained based on Hawaii, or against Hawaii while Singapore remained intact. A naval war on two fronts must be considered just as hazardous as a military adventure of a similar kind. A large Fleet must have docking, fuelling and supply facilities on an enormous scale, within reasonable distance of its zone of operations. The provision of these facilities is a matter of years—not of months—of preparation. A Capital ship once seriously injured at a great distance from its base must in most cases be considered a loss—as was evidenced in the case of the *Bismarck*. An Anglo-American naval war against Japan would certainly not take the form of the Russo-Japanese campaign, where the Baltic Fleet was compelled to risk passage through narrow straits in the vicinity of Japan. It might, indeed, be ended without the main Fleets ever catching sight of each other, seeing that those of America and Great Britain would be so disposed as to be able to impose a long-distance blockade without moving a battleship out of the range of their fortified bases.

The Japanese Admirals who boast that their designs are superior to those of any other Naval Power, who sneer at the alleged "facilities for pleasure" on British warships—most of which are put over the side on the outbreak of war—and who claim that they are far ahead of the British Fleet Air Arm in torpedo-bombing, overlook one most important fact. The British Navy and Air Force have now been in continuous action under war conditions for nearly two years. The Japanese Navy and Air Force have never yet encountered a modern enemy counterpart, and unless they are relatively much better equipped and more efficient than their army, they are likely to receive a very rude shock when they come up against the warships and aircraft of the West—*Oriental Affairs (Shanghai)*.

"A CLASH OF FLEETS AND FLOTILLAS"

SECOND LAND-FRONT OPENED UP IN WESTERN DESERT

With a majestic sweep forward on a line extending 120 miles across the Western Desert, General Cunningham's all-mobile Eighth Army have opened up a second land front. British, German and Italian armoured divisions are locked in mortal combat over a battle field covering close on 10,000 square miles. As dust clouds rise from the wadis and the air is filled with the din of steel hitting steel, as British aircraft drone ceaselessly across the desert sky and cruiser squadrons lob six-inch shells on to Mussolini's "Via Victoria" . . . Hitler faces a dilemma. Is he to sit back helplessly and watch General Rommel's forces being swept out of Africa and the Sicilian Channel converted into an Allied bridgehead, or must he despatch reinforcements and *Luftwaffe* squadrons which he can ill spare from the Eastern Front?

The objective of the Imperial forces is not the occupation of Benghazi or Tripoli, not the capture of thousands of prisoners, but the destruction of German tanks and mechanised equipment. "The conditions," Churchill has told us, "are in many respects like those of a sea war. The principal units involved keep wireless silence when preparing and making their rapid and extensive movements. The encounter, when it is achieved, is like a clash of fleets and flotillas."

The enemy land forces are putting up a stiff fight. But British superiority in the air and at sea has yet to be seriously disputed. In the air American Maryland and Douglas Boston bombers and Tomahawk fighters are operating alongside British Wellingtons and Blenheims, Hurricanes and Beaufighters. It is ironic that, less than a year ago, the German radio was saying two things: one, American aid cargoes would all be sunk before they reached the front line; two, American planes were "entirely unsuited for contest with German planes."

Last December Lord Haw-Haw went as far as to say: "The only usage for the American planes is in training or probably in Near Eastern operations." The implication was that American planes might be all right against the Italians, but would never be effective against German machines. The pilots of many a German Junkers could now tell a different tale.

The fact that American tanks and planes are operating in the Western Desert and British tanks and planes are already in action on the Eastern Front is an index of steadily mounting Allied strength. It also provides vivid proof of Britain's control of the seas. To reach the theatres of war, those tanks and planes had to cross one or more of three oceans—Atlantic, Pacific and Indian. They arrived safely.

Sea-power has enabled the Allies to snatch the initiative in Libya. In the race to accumulate supplies on either side of the Egyptian frontier, the Axis had the advantage of a supply line scarcely one twentieth of the length of the Allied supply line. Yet they lost the race. The same sea-power that made possible the evacuations from Norway, France, Greece and Crete will enable the Allies to land expeditionary forces wherever they choose and whenever they judge the moment apt. Meanwhile sea-power ensures the safe arrival of troops and equipment in the Middle and Far East and of urgently needed supplies in Russia.

THE AXIS SPEAKS—AND IS ANSWERED

Enemy Broadcasts to India and the Near East

FOR THE PERIOD NOVEMBER 15–22, 1941

A PLAIN CASE OF DISTORTION

" It is reported from Delhi that the British Defence authorities in India have seized three large railway repair works for the manufacture of war materials. By this action the British authorities succeeded in forcing 13,000 Indian railway workers to manufacture war materials for Britain. This indicates the failure of the British to induce Indian workers to work *voluntarily* for them."—(*German news in Hindustani, November* 17, 1941.)

The Communications Member Sir Andrew Clow informed the authentic representatives of India's Railways on November 15, that 13,000 men, the number so carefully abused by Goebbels, are working in Railway workshops *voluntarily* on munitions and thousands of others are being trained in Railway military units. The Railway authorities handed over three large workshops for the production of war supplies in a spirit that would pass the understanding of the Nazis.

WHEAT AND COTTON

" The British military authorities in the Middle East are furious that Indian authorities have restricted the wheat export, and that Indian authorities have done nothing to avoid a rise in the price of wheat. The British are now threatening to seize all the wheat."—(*German news in English, November* 19, 1941.)

Reversing all his previous propaganda, Goebbels suddenly discovers, for his own purposes, that the Government of India is not, after all, the mouthpiece of His Majesty's Government in London.

India's restriction of her wheat exports is obviously designed to prevent acute shortage and check rising prices.

Finally, supplies of wheat for Middle Eastern countries as a whole are being exported from, for exemple, Australia and North America, in very much larger quantities than from India.

" A *Popolo di Roma* message states that the Egyptian Government has lowered the price for cotton. The only explanation is that Great Britain has been unable to take over her share of the Egyptian crop."—(*German news in English, November* 19, 1941.)

It is common sense to grow what can be sold to people who need it. Egypt's war-time difficulties arise chiefly from the loss of European markets under Axis domination. Britain is purchasing Egyptian cotton to the seed value of £25 million and 46 million bushels of Egyptian wheat from the 1941–42 crop. Britain could obtain both these commodities from America on Lease and Lend terms. The only explanation is that she wants to help Egypt to re-adjust her economy.

OUT OF GOOSE-STEP

This Picture

" No power in the world would be insane enough to invade India."—(*German news in Hindustani*, 21*st November* 1941.)

" British Propaganda is attempting to make the world believe that British troops in Cyrenaica surprised the Axis forces. There is no question of surprise action."—(*Italian news in English*, 21*st November* 1941.)

And That

" India will be invaded to oust the British from the country."—(*Italian news in English*, 11*th November* 1941.)

" Your Government must inaugurate some show of action but you know you can do nothing."—(*German broadcast in English to England*, 19*th November* 1941.)

This Picture

"The German radio says that German troops have repulsed the British attack in Cyrenaica and that a deluge of rain has prevented the continuation of the attack."—(*German controlled Vichy Radio, 20th November* 1941.)

And That

"One would expect the result of the new offensive to be favourable to the British. It is not to be ignored that operations will not be so easy . . ."—(*German News in Persian and Arabic, 21st November* 1941.)

AXIS PROPAGANDA FOR THE ARAB WORLD

Long before she declared war, *Italy* was using her Bari broadcasting station to *spread confusion in the Arab world.* Long before she declared war *Germany* sought to *embitter the Palestine problem* by the Nazi persecution of German Jews. It was this cold-blooded Nazi policy that increased the annual flow of Jewish immigrants into Palestine from *4,000 to 62,000* inside four years.

In war the *Axis* propaganda policy is to pose as the *champions of Islam* while the armies hold down a dozen once independent nations and their secret police *strangle religion* wherever they find it.

Disruption is to pave the way, as elsewhere, for domination. Read these authentic Axis statements and understand their methods. *In the same perjured mouth are two contradictory stories.*

"It is reported from Jerusalem that Emir Abdulla had several talks with the British High Commissioner, during the past few days.

It is stated that the question of amalgamating Transjordan, Palestine and Syria and establishing a government there under Emir Abdulla was discussed. *The Jews will be a minority in the new State.* The report is causing consternation. The Syrians are not ready to accept Abdulla as their ruler."—(*Italian News in Arabic, 17th November* 1941.)

"*Britain has again begun to make promises to the Arabs.* Mr. Eden has asked Emir Abdulla to propagate the news among the Arabs that after the war the Arabs will be formed into one national state including Syria."—(*Italian News in English, 10th March* 1941.)

"*Lord (sic) Lyttleton is striving to create an Arab Confederation.* The Emir of Transjordan is to get the title 'King of the Arabs.' Fakci Nasha Shibi is to have Palestine, and Nuri Said Iraq."—(*Italian News in Arabic, 13th November* 1941.)

"Britain is already taking steps to prepare the way for the *establishment of a Jewish State* comprising Transjordan, Palestine and Syria. In this connexion, negotiation took place between the Zionist leaders and British statesmen. To conceal the truth Britain is telling the Arabs that the proposed amalgamation is one large Arab State."—(*German News in Arabic and Persian, 3rd November* 1941.)

"*The Arabs must be driven out of Palestine and Transjordan to make the Jewish dream of a national home become an established fact,*" said Israel Sieff in New York. We find it difficult to believe that he would have made this preposterous statement without the *backing of the British Government.*"—(*German News in English, 18th November* 1941.)

"Rashid Ali Abbas, the former propaganda minister, said in an interview: '*The Arabs aim at an Arab Federation, but the British undermine it.*' The final triumph of the Axis powers is bound to bring doom to the British, *when the Muslims will enjoy freedom.*"—(*Italian News in Hindustani, 19th November* 1941.)

DIARY OF THE WAR

AIR ACTIVITY OVER GERMANY AND ENGLAND

28th Nov.—The Royal Air Force bombs industrial targets in Dusseldorf, the docks at Ostend and aerodromes in the Low Countries.

29th Nov.—Slight enemy activity over Northern Ireland is reported in the morning.

1st Dec.—Hamburg receives 150 tons of bombs from the Royal Air Force, which also raids Bremerhaven, Wilhelmshaven, Kiel and Lubeck.

ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

28th Nov.—British Imperial Forces estabish junction with the forces that had sallied out from Tobruk.

Gondar, the last Italian stronghold in Abyssinia, surrenders to the British, the garrison being 23,500 strong under General Vasi.

The Royal Air Force bombs Naples and Derna.

29th Nov.—The British advance continues in Libya, where the re-formed Axis armoured forces offer stiff resistance.

30th Nov.—Gen. von Revenstein, commanding the 21st German Panzer Division in Libya, is captured along with 600 German prisoners. British patrols penetrate to the Cyrenaican coast between Jedabaya and Benghazi.

The Royal Air Force raids Derna, Benghazi and Tripoli.

1st Dec.—The Germans, after penetrating British defences round Sidi Rezegh, are driven back. Pockets of enemy resistance are being eliminated by Indian and other units.

Eighteen Axis planes are destroyed in air combats. Three British fighters are lost but all the pilots are saved.

Malta's 1000th alert passes off without any attack developing.

2nd Dec.—The operations in Libya continue to be in a fluid state, the Germans taking Sidi Rezegh and Bir-El-Hamid but failing in their attempts to isolate Tobruk again.

3rd Dec.—The tempo of the Libyan operations slows down, both sides pausing for rest.

An anti-Fascist conspiracy is reported to have been unearthed in Italy and 71 persons are put on trial at Trieste.

4th Dec.—Gen. Sir Henry Maitland Wilson is appointed to lead the Ninth British Army in the Middle East.

The New Zealand Premier states that the New Zealand forces in Libya both inflict and suffer heavy losses.

UNITED STATES AND THE ATLANTIC

28th Nov.—United States troops arrive in Paramaribo to protect the bauxite mines in Dutch Guiana.

30th Nov.—In the course of an address at Warm Springs, President Roosevelt says that Americans may have to fight to defend American institutions.

1st Dec.—A German raider is sunk in the South Atlantic by H.M.S. "*Devonshire*."

A settlement of the railway dispute in the United States is reached and the threatened strike warded off.

The United States freighter *Macbeth* (4,935 tons), flying the Panamanian flag, is torpedoed in the North Atlantic.

2nd Dec.—Following on Col. Knox's declaration that the United States Navy is ready to meet any emergency in the Pacific as well as the Atlantic, a Washington announcement says that 33 warships have been launched and 52 keels laid in connection with the Naval programme.

3rd Dec.—The United States House of Representatives passes the Strike Control Bill.

The House Appropriations Committee approves a new Lease-Land appropriation of about 8,250 million dollars for providing more tanks and guns for Britain and Russia.

RUSSIA AND FINLAND

28th Nov.—The Russian advance continues in the Rostov sector. The Germans make a slight but costly advance near Stalinogorsk in the Moscow region.

The Russians bring down 19 German planes and sink an enemy oil tanker and five troop-transports.

29th Nov.—The Russians re-take Rostov, smashing Gen. von Kleist's Panzer troops. The German thrust near Tula on the Moscow front is beaten off but the Nazis claim Volokolamsk.

Fifty-eight German planes are brought down by the Russians in the course of 48 hours as against the loss of 13 Russian planes.

30th Nov.—The Russians pursue the remnants of Von Kleist's army towards Mariopol. In the North, they evacuate Tikhvin but in the Moscow sector they beat off all German outflanking movements.

The Finnish Government's spokesmen indicate in Parliament that they will continue the war with Russia.

1st Dec.—The Germans are firmly held on the Moscow front. While the pursuit of Von Kleist's forces continues in the south, a new Russian thrust is reported in the Donetz Basin.

2nd Dec.—The Germans have already retreated 40 miles from Rostov. Russian counter-attacks drive the Finns from four heights on the Karelian front and threaten the German flank at Tula in the Moscow region.

3rd Dec.—Soviet troops take the offensive in various sub-sectors of the Moscow front.

4th Dec.—The Germans make desparate efforts to take Tula in the Moscow region but the Russians resist stubbornly.

In the north, the Germans report the capture of a Russian troopship as a result of its striking a mine but there is no confirmation of the Finnish claim that the Russians have begun the evacuation of the Finnish naval base of Hangoe.

In the south, the Germans continue to retreat to Mariopol.

THE BALKANS, TURKEY, IRAQ, IRAN, SYRIA, Etc.

30th Nov.—The United States State Department welcomes the grant of independence to the Lebanon.

3rd Dec.—President Roosevelt announces that Turkey has been brought into the Lease-Lend programme as her defence is vital to the defence of the United States of America.

4th Dec.—The Royal Yugoslav General Head-Quartes announces fierce resistence to the Germans in Yugoslavia.

SHIPPING

28th Nov.—The Royal Air Force makes succesful attacks on enemy shipping off the Dutch and Norwegian coasts.

29th Nov.—The British submarines *Tigris* and *Trident* sink eight enemy ships and seriously damage five others in Arctic waters.

2nd Dec.—After sinking a heavily armed German raider, the Australian cruiser Sydney is herself sunk.

The British Navy in the Mediterranean sinks one Italian supply ship, one heavy destroyer and one tanker carrying 10,000 tons of petrol for the German army in Libya.

The Royal Air Force Coastal Command, in the course of surprise attacks on the harbour at Kristiansund, sets on fire several enemy supply ships.

3rd Dec.—The United States Maritime Commission reveals that launchings in American shipyards are at the rate of one per day.

THE FAR EAST

28th Nov.—The Thailand National Assembly accepts a Bill, authorizing the Government to make preparations "for the defence of the Kingdom".

The Japanese Cabinet considers Mr. Cordell Hull's memorandum.

29th Nov.—President Roosevelt confers with the Secretary of State and the Secretaries for War and the Navy before leaving Washington for Warm Springs for the week-end. Meanwhile Lord Halifax hurries from Philadelphia to confer with Mr. Cordell Hull on the Far East situation.

Reports circulate in Japan that the United States of America is to institute air patrols over the Burma Road.

Leave for British troops is cancelled in Singapore.

30th Nov.—British troops in Singapore are asked to stand by. American Nationals in Thailand are advised by the consular authorities to be ready to leave at a moment's notice. Large reinforcements of British Indian troops arrive in Rangoon.

1st Dec.—The United States–Japan talks are resumed in Washington. President Roosevelt, who hurries back to the capital after cutting short his holiday, confers with Mr. Cordell Hull.

The Saigon Radio says that Japan has decided temporarily to suspend the despatch of fresh troops to Indo-China.

The Japanese Foreign Minister reports to the Cabinet. Meanwhile, a State of Emergency is proclaimed in Singapore and precautions are taken both at Hong Kong and in the Philippines. Admiral Sir Tom Phillips is to be the British Naval Commander-in-Chief, China station.

2nd Dec.—The British battleship *Prince of Wales* and other units of the Royal Navy arrive in Singapore.

3rd Dec.—Mr. Sumner Welles, United States Under-Secretary of State, reveals that President Roosevelt has asked Japan a few questions and expects a prompt reply.

4th Dec.—President Roosevelt confers with Congressional leaders on the Far East situation.

VICHY AND OCCUPIED FRANCE

29th Nov.—Official circles in Vichy deny the report that French air and naval bases in North Africa have been handed over to the Axis powers.

The United States Coast Guard increases its protection of French ships in American harbours, which may be requisitioned by America in the event of the Nazis gaining control of the French Fleet.

1st Dec.—Marshal Petain confers with Goering at a place 80 miles from Paris " on matters of interest to Germany and France."

3rd Dec.—A German military officer is shot in Paris and the Nazis threaten fierce reprisal against the civil population.

4th Dec.—Bases in North Africa for German use and Spanish-Vichy co-operation in West Africa are reported to have been decided on at the Petain-Goering meeting.

OTHER OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

1st Dec.—The Polish Premier, Gen. Sikorski, is welcomed by the Soviet President when he arrives at Kujbyshev in order to organize a Polish army on Russian soil.

2nd Dec.—The Danish Minister in London says he is unable to take orders from the Axis-ridden Government in Denmark.

NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

1st Dec.—The Dublin mail-boat *Cambria* is unsuccessfully attacked by a German plane.

The Chilean Defence Council meets.

The Spanish Foreign Minister reports to Gen. Franco on his recent talks in Berlin with German and Italian Ministers.

N.B.—Please file the Madras War Review regularly for future reference.

[With the compliments of the Information Officer and Special Press Adviser, Madras.]

MADRAS: PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS.